WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A polylactide in a purified state, which meets the requirements of

   - the colour strengths of reference solutions B_2 - B_9 of the brown colour test of the European Pharmacopoeia, 2nd Edition (1980) part I, Section V, 6.2 and

   - containing one or more metals in cationic form, the metal ion(s) having a concentration of at most 10 ppm.

2. A polylactide according to claim 1, having the colour strength of reference solutions B_4 - B_9.

3. A polylactide according to claim 2, having the colour strength of reference solution B_9.

4. A polylactide according to claim 1, in which the metal ion is Sn^{++}.

5. A polylactide according to claim 4, having a Sn^{++} concentration of at most 1.5 ppm.

6. A polylactide according to claims 4, in which the Sn^{++} accompanying salt anion is ethyl hexanoate.

7. A polylactide according to claim 6, having an ethyl hexanoate concentration of at most 0.5% by weight of the polylactide.

8. A polylactide according to claim 1, having a

monomer	content	of	at	most	1%	by	weight	of	the	polylactide		
water	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		
organic solvent	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		
ash	"	"	"	"	0,1"	"	"	"	"	"		

and having an acid number" " " 10.

9. A polylactide according to claim 1, containing additionally glycolide units.

10. A polylactide according to claim 9, having lactide/glycolide molar ratio's of 100-25/0-75.

11. A polylactide according to claim 10, having molar ratio's of 75-25/25-75.

12. A polylactide according to claim 11, having molar ratio's of 60-40/40-60.

13. A polylactide according to claim 1, being an ester of a polyol containing at least 3 hydroxyl groups.

14. A polylactide according to claim 13, being an ester of a sugar or of a sugar alcohol.

15. A polylactide according to claim 13, being a glucose ester.

16. A polylactide according to claims 1, being a linear polylactid-glycolide.

17. A polylactide according to claims 13 having a mean molecular weight M_w of from 10000 to 200000.

18. A polylactide according to claim 13, having a polydispersity $^{Mw}/_{Mn}$

of from 1.7 to 3.0.

19. A polylactide according to claim 16, having a mean molecular weight M_w of from 25,000 to 100,000.

20. A polylactide according to claim 16, having a polydispersity M_w/M_n of from 1.2 to 2.0

21. A polylactide according to claim 1, obtained by contacting a solution of the impure polylactide with a matrix having on its surface acidic groups.

22. A method for obtaining the polylactide according to claim 1, by contacting a solution of the impure polylactide with a matrix having on its surface carboxylic groups and isolating the purified polylactide from the eluate.

23. A method for obtaining the polylactide according to claim 1, by contacting a solution of the impure polylactide with active charcoal and isolating the purified polylactide from the eluate.

24. A method according to claim 23, in which the isolation includes a further purification step, which is ultrafiltration.

25. A method according to claim 23 in which the impure polylactide is dissolved in acetone.

26. A pharmaceutical composition containing a polylactide according to claim 1 as a matrix for a drug compound.

27. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, comprising bromocriptine as the drug compound.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, comprising a peptide as the drug compound.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28, comprising a somatostatin as the drug compound.

30. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, comprising octreotide or an acid addition salt or a derivative therof.

31. Process for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, which comprises working up the polylactide of claim 1 with the drug compound to form an implantate or a microparticle.